

OPENING CROWD OF 15,000 SEES BUSKIN WIN THE METROPOLITAN

Figginny Second, Rock View
Third in First Feature of
1914 Racing Season.

RUSH AT FINISH TIMELY

Son of Hamburg - Slippers
Five Lengths Ahead at
Wire - Ties Record.

PUBLIC LIKES BETTING

Abundance of Wagering by
Friends, All Carried On
in Orderly Fashion.

WILSON GETS THREE RACES

His Plantagenet, Penobscot and
Encore Win—So Do Besom
and Guy Fisher.

BELMONT PARK, L. I., May 26.—(Racing, revived a year ago, was reestablished on a firm basis to-day, when fifteen thousand persons saw the four-year-old Buskin win the Metropolitan Handicap at one mile from a high class field of eleven. Cutting loose in the last eighth of a mile, the son of Hamburg—Slippers breezed over the finish line five lengths in front of the three-year-old Figginny, owned by Gifford A. Cochran, one of the latest recruits to the turf. Then came the popular favorite, Rock View, carrying the colors of August Belmont into third place under the heavy impost of 127 pounds. The winner equalled the track record of 1:37 4-5, made by Fashion Plate in 1910.

Long before the entries in the feature event paraded there was a scene at the park to stir the enthusiasm of the men who have fought for years to bring racing back. As the special trains arrived the stands and lawn gradually filled with an eager, anxious throng longing for the first sound of the bugle which would denote the opening of the racing season of 1914. Old timers were there in plenty, but there was a judicious leavening of the new adherents of the sport—the people who have been attracted by the motto of sport for sport's sake—and these were ready to cheer the efforts of horses and riders independent of any small wagers they might make on the result of a race.

"Boots and Saddles" Thrills.

Friends who had not met since the close of last season were busy exchanging greetings when the notes of "Boots and Saddles" summoned the masses to the post for the two-year-old race which opened the programme. This was the most dramatic moment of the afternoon, for approximately enough the first youngster to step on the track and parade in the saddle, stand before the red, white and blue of Capt. E. B. Cassatt. The sight of the national colors in the van roused the crowd to enthusiasm and the Cassatt entry, Trial By Jury, was cheered more vociferously before the race than was the winner, Encore, which bore the popular colors of R. T. Wilson, Jr., to victory.

There was much curiosity to see how the speculation, which is regarded as a necessary adjunct to horseracing, would be conducted. The station had been fairly outlined by recent court decisions and the track management was more than willing to respect the views of District Attorney Lewis J. Smith of Nassau county as to complying with the law. The District Attorney was engaged in trying a case at Mineola, but he sent a number of county detectives to see that the law was obeyed. Sheriff Pettit also sent over a force of twenty-five deputies in charge of Deputy Sheriff Rayner, but the proceedings were so orderly throughout the day that not a single arrest was made. There was no organized bookmaking, but at the same time there was an abundance of wagering among friends, who were so well acquainted that there was no occasion to pass money. All subterfuges and concealment was done away with, such as whispering of odds and then recording bets by a clerk writing down the wagers on paper concealed in his pocket. Men who had a wide acquaintance on the racetrack, some of whom had been known as bookmakers in the old days, were ready and willing to accept the wagers of those known to them. All that was necessary was for the man who wished to speculate to write the name of the horse he wished to support on a slip of paper, with the size of the wager and his name and hand it to a man who was willing to receive it. The slip then was tucked away and a general settlement made after the last race had been run.

Borrow and Stromboli Added.

There was general satisfaction when it was learned early in the day that Harry Payne Whitney had added his English campaigner Borrow to the list of starters for the Metropolitan, but in spite of the stories that this six-year-old had run trials which warranted the belief that he would duplicate the feat of Whisk Broom II. in winning on his first start in this country the Whitney entry received a point in the betting from the opening quotation of 4 to 1. Stromboli also was added as a running mate to the favorite Rock View, and this extra string to the Belmont bow caused the stable to be held at 8 to 5 at post time after opening at 4 to 3. A. L. Aste's Ten Point was the only horse scratched, the net result being that eleven went to the post instead of ten, as named over night.

In almost perfect alignment the eleven thoroughbreds sprang into action when the rise of the barrier released them for the first big race of the year. For a few strides Buckhorn poked his nose in front, but quickly slipped back to allow Figginny to draw out with a clear lead before a further had been covered. But when Figginny placed the Belmont horse a head behind Figginny as they straightened out in the stretch, with Buskin looming up by a burst of speed that brought him within a length of Rock View. Figginny showed good judgment in taking Buskin to the outside, where he had a straight path to the wire. Notter on Borrow saw a compact bunch in front of him and made an effort to get through on the rail.

Weight Too Much for Rock View.

Figginny's speed was too much for the heavily weighted Rock View as the boys began riding their hardest with an eighth of a mile to go, and as the top weight dropped back Buskin came up with powerful strides and running straight as an arrow shot by Rock View for a momentary duel with Figginny. For a moment there were shouts for Borrow as the Whitney stable were seen shooting forward on the rail, but they died away when Figginny and Rock View edged over and caused Notter to pull up the English horse. Then out from the bunch shot Buskin with a mighty rush that left no doubt of his success. "Buskin! Buskin!" shrieked the thousands in the stand as the bearer of the blue and white stripes tore onward with speed that increased at every stride. He left the others struggling and with the boys whipping for dear life.

while his own rider, Fairbrother, did nothing except to keep his head straight as he breezed over the line a glorious winner by five lengths. Figginny beat the Rock View by a little more than a length, while Borrow was another length away. Five lengths back was Flying Fairy, with the rest of the field following in fairly close order except Funch Bowl, which finished a bad last, ten lengths behind Gainer.

The winner was a consistent though not brilliant racer as a three-year-old, but was esteemed more for staying qualities than for speed. He won the Novice Stakes for three-year-olds at Pimlico last fall. John Whalen, who in the past has trained for August Belmont, carefully prepared Buskin for his race of today, his only previous performance this year was when he won the Rennett Hotel Stakes over the mile route at Pimlico.

R. T. Wilson, Jr., had no entry in the big event, but the colors of this popular sportsman were carried to the front in three of the other races. There was general rejoicing at his success as he stood gallantly by his guns when the sport was at its lowest ebb, racing for small purses and buying more horses when many other owners were selling and shipping to foreign parts.

Wilson Two-Year-Olds Shine.

That the Wilson two-year-olds are destined to be formidable is evident from the fact that both of the races for the youngsters were won by him. In the first he started Encore, by Playditt—Express, and Nouredin, by Ogden—Frances McClelland. The declaration was made to win with Encore, and with Wife in the saddle the Playditt gelding took a hard drive in beating Capt. Cassatt's Trial By Jury by a length. Sea Shell was coming fast at the finish and was beaten only a nose for the place.

James Butler furnished the favorite in the other two-year-old race in Comely, a daughter of Disguise. The finish was a pretty one, but Wilson's Plantagenet drew away in the last sixteenth, winning by a length from Comely, with the Onck Stable's Distant Shore half a length further back. Both of Wilson's winning two-year-olds stepped the four and a half furlongs in 53 seconds.

Mr. Wilson's other success was scored in the New York Steeplechase, in which his grand jumper Penobscot will go down in history as a winner of a stake that in the past has been won by such famous chasers as Good and Plenty and Hylas. Penobscot was well in hand when he finished five lengths in front. Peregrine Pickle was over the last jump a second place, but Ballybay had the speed on the flat and took the place by a length and a half.

Old Besom Breezes Home.

Old Besom came to life in the second race, for selling platters, and leading nearly all the way, breezed in three lengths before later Welles. The Wilson colors were lowered in the race, a selling event at a mile and a sixteenth. The public scrambled to get aboard of Amalfi, but the good thing was kept in a pocket most of the way. Amalfi came from last place in the stretch, but failed by a length, to catch Guy Fisher. The summaries:

FIRST RACE.
For two-year-olds, by subscription of \$100, with sex added, penalties and allowances, four and a half furlongs straight.
Horse and age, Wt. Jockey. Price. Fin.
Encore, 2, 116, Wilson, Jr., 3-2 even 1st
Trial By Jury, 2, 110, Davies, 5-2 even 2nd
Sea Shell, 2, 107, Wood, 15-1 3rd
Nouredin, 2, 107, F. Broder, 4-1 4th
Minstrel, 2, 107, Brady, 15-1 5th
Headstart, 2, 104, Schuyler, 8-1 6th
Nouredin, 2, 107, J. McCarty, 8-1 7th
Tinkle Bell, 2, 107, Hoffman, 8-1 8th
Chantress, 2, 104, McKuer, 20-1 9th
Golden Plume, 2, 107, Glass, 20-1 10th
Dona, 2, 104, McAuley, 20-1 11th

Second Race.
For three-year-olds and upward, selling, by subscription of \$10, with \$500 added; six furlongs, main course.
Horse and age, Wt. Jockey. Price. Fin.
Besom, aged, 116, Butwell, 3-2 1-2 1st
Progressive, 4, 111, McCall, 15-1 5-1 2nd
J. J. Little, 3, 104, Schuyler, 15-1 3-1 3rd
Maxin's Choice, 3, 107, F. Broder, 12-1 4-1 4th
Distant Shore, 3, 108, Davies, 13-1 5-1 5th
Golden, 4, 115, Ward, 12-1 4-1 6th
Wild, 3, 110, Trotter, 40-1 10-1 7th
Mary Warren, 3, 108, Ryan, 20-1 11-1 8th

Third Race.
For two-year-olds and geldings, by subscription of \$10 each, with \$500 added; four and a half furlongs straight.
Horse and age, Wt. Jockey. Price. Fin.
Plantagenet, 2, 108, Wolfe, 8-1 even 1st
Comely, 2, 108, Hoffman, 13-1 1-2 2nd
Distant Shore, 2, 108, Sumner, 3-1 3-1 3rd
Hydroplane, 2, 108, Davies, 13-1 4-1 4th
Shortland, 2, 114, Schuyler, 7-1 5-1 5th
Dona, 2, 108, McKnight, 15-1 6-1 6th

Fourth Race.
The Metropolitan Handicap for three-year-olds and upward, by subscription of \$25, with \$2,500 and plate value \$100 added; one mile.
Horse and age, Wt. Jockey. Price. Fin.
Buskin, 4, 114, Fairbrother, 9-2 5-5 1st
Figginny, 3, 117, McKnight, 40-1 15-1 2nd
Rock View, 4, 127, Butwell, 8-5 3-5 3rd
Borrow, 6, 125, Notter, 5-1 2-1 4th
Funch Bowl, 4, 115, Lewis, 15-1 6-1 5th
Republican, 3, 108, Turner, 15-1 6-1 6th
Stromboli, 3, 102, J. McCarty, 3-5 3-5 7th
Amrose, 4, 108, Ford, 30-1 10-1 8th
Gainer, 3, 106, Buxton, 20-1 1-1 9th
Punch Bowl, 3, 100, Calahan, 15-1 5-1 10th

Fifth Race.
The New York Steeplechase for four-year-olds and upward, by subscription of \$10, with \$1,000 added; about two miles.
Horse and age, Wt. Jockey. Price. Fin.
Penobscot, 4, 124, Volker, 11-5 4-5 1st
Ballybay, 4, 126, Allen, 2-1 4-5 2nd
Pickle, 4, 120, Tyle, 15-1 6-1 3rd
Sycamore, 4, 126, Keating, 15-1 6-1 4th
Bellet, 4, 126, Heller, 15-1 6-1 5th
Arlie, 4, 126, Carr, 15-1 6-1 6th
Trotter, 4, 121, Keller, 12-1 5-1 7th
Top Hat, 4, 124, Schuyler, 7-1 5-1 8th
Sard Hog, 4, 121, Pat, 8-1 3-1 9th

Sixth Race.
For three-year-olds and upward, selling, by subscription of \$10, with \$500 added; one mile and a sixteenth.
Horse and age, Wt. Jockey. Price. Fin.
Guy Fisher, aged, 113, Butwell, 5-2 5-1 1st
126, Wolfe, 4-5 out 2nd
Trotter, 3, 81, Ryan, 12-1 4-1 3rd
Mr. Selig, 3, 101, Sumner, 4-1 6-5 4th
O. U. Buster, 4, 101, Ural, 30-1 10-1 5th

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